

member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, advanced in the Knights of Columbus Council, active in the Elk's Lodge, and on the board of the Kenny Rogers Children's Center. Mr. Glueck was a mainstay in the community, and he will be remembered well for his good humor, kind nature, and boundless energy.

I want to commend his life to the U.S. House of Representatives as a model of community service. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Glueck's wife, Dorothy, and the many family and friends who today mourn a great loss.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, yesterday I was absent and missed rollcall vote 175. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 175.

IN MEMORY OF SPC. LAWRENCE ALDRICH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in memory of one of our nation's bravest and finest men, who gave his life protecting our nation and its citizens—Army Specialist Lawrence Lee Aldrich of Fort Worth, Texas. Spc. Aldrich was killed on May 6, 1968, fighting in the Vietnam War, and after more than 40 years, he has finally been reunited with his family and loved ones.

Spc. Aldrich was a fearless young man who joined the Army in 1967. Those who served alongside him remember him as brave and selfless. He gave his life for this country and should be honored for upholding the high standards we have set for our Armed Forces.

On the day Spc. Aldrich was killed, he was serving as a member of a search-and-clear mission in Binh Dinh Province, in what was then South Vietnam. He was last seen with two other Americans engaged in a battle with enemy forces while manning an M-60 machine gun position. An air strike was called in, but one of the bombs inadvertently landed on Spc. Aldrich's position, killing the three soldiers. Members of his unit later recovered the remains of the two other men, but Aldrich could not be found.

Spc. Aldrich is one of 58,000 soldiers' names that appear on the Vietnam Memorial. His family's greatest wish was to have his body returned. Although his parents have passed on, his siblings know that this would have made them extremely happy.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to honor the memory of Spc. Lawrence Lee Aldrich for his bravery and courage while defending and protecting our nation during the Vietnam War. I am proud to represent such outstanding soldiers from my district, and the nation as a whole, in the United States House of Representatives.

HELEN PEDOTTI TRIBUTE

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tremendous woman.

Helen Pedotti was a rancher, business owner, activist, philanthropist, educator, wife and mother. She died on January 25 and with her passing, our community lost a wonderful friend whose talents were as limitless as her generosity.

Throughout the Central and South Coasts of California, Helen was known in many circles. Along with her husband Pida, she ran Rancho Arbolado on the Gaviota Coast, where they also raised their four children: Holly, Tina, Jon and Chico. Active in the ranching community, Helen was known as a bighearted neighbor, efficient business partner and loyal friend.

Helen was known in many circles for her support of community colleges, progressive politics, the environment, immigration reform, civic justice, and the right for all children to have a quality education. Her friend Robert Isaacson described her perfectly when he said "her passions, values, and politics were integrated fully into a powerful force, and she was utterly fearless in her beliefs."

Despite so many interests, Helen was never satisfied with just lending her support to a particular issue. She would tirelessly contribute her time, resources and innovative ideas to everything she felt passionately about. All of us who knew and worked with Helen were challenged to think greater and do better than we thought possible of ourselves. I will always be grateful to her for instilling that kind of confidence.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to pay tribute to this remarkable woman and friend. I know I speak on behalf of my entire community when I say she leaves an irreplaceable gap in our community and our hearts.

RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support H.R. 4872, the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010 and H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Act, which promise to bring economic prosperity for the betterment of this country and our people.

Tonight, we vote to expand health care to 32 million Americans, including more than 150,000 of my constituents who do not currently have any type of health insurance.

I must remind my friends on both sides of the aisle that this is not the first time we take up a tough vote.

Nobody said that this would be easy. These past days remind me of a critical vote I took in 1993. The atmosphere and rhetoric was much the same as today. In 1993, we were told voting in favor of President Clinton's budget deficit reduction would destroy our country and no member would survive re-election if they voted in favor.

Despite the negative rhetoric, I carefully examined the proposal and voted in favor of the legislation. This was a responsible vote. We ultimately benefited by balancing the deficit and creating one of the largest debt reductions in the history of our great country. Fiscal responsibility led us to more than \$400 billion in deficit reduction, without destroying our country and providing us a prosperous economy with global competitiveness.

Today, I am faced with another pressing historic vote just as I was seventeen years ago.

Growing up in south Texas and working as a migrant worker without health insurance, I understand this issue first-hand. I remember what that was like and can empathize with the uninsured and underinsured. I remember having asthma, a pre-existing condition, which prohibited me from obtaining health care insurance before entering military service.

More than 45,000 annual deaths occur due to lack of insurance and health services. Therefore, I support legislation that reduces the number of uninsured people by 32 million and presents a net reduction in the deficit of \$138 billion over 10 years with a total net reduction of \$1.3 trillion over the next 20 years. That is a responsible vote.

I support increasing competition and offering additional affordable insurance options to consumers. This legislation will improve coverage for 296,000 residents with health insurance and extend coverage to 158,000 uninsured residents in the 27th District of Texas. Small businesses will be able to pool together to obtain lower insurance premiums, a benefit that has only been available to large employers. Small businesses will be eligible for tax credits to help provide employer-based insurance to ensure a healthy competitive workforce.

After much evaluation, this legislation will benefit the 27th District of Texas and I will support the measure when brought to the House floor.

WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today on World Tuberculosis Day in support of local community efforts to raise awareness of tuberculosis, TB. World TB Day commemorates the date in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacteria that causes TB.

On World TB Day, I encourage citizens to take the opportunity to learn about this disease, which infects one third of the world's population and causes almost two billion deaths worldwide. TB bacteria, which is spread through the air, usually attack the lungs, but can also attack the kidney, spine and brain. If not properly treated, the disease can be fatal.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, there were 12,904 reported cases of TB in the United States in 2008. Although both the number of TB cases reported and the case rate decreased in the United States in 2008, we still must work toward the elimination of TB.

Although my district in El Paso has a TB rate that is lower than the average border rate,